



# GREAT COMPLINE

THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH • HOLY THEOPHANY – BAPTISM  
OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST







# GREAT COMPLINE

**DEACON:** Bless, Master.

**PRIEST:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever,  
and unto the ages of ages.

**FAITHFUL:** Amen.

**READER:** ✝ Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth,  
everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of  
blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, and  
cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls,  
O Good One.

✝ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy  
on us. (*thrice*)

✝ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of  
ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord,  
cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our  
transgressions. O Holy One, visit us and heal our  
infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

✝ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of  
ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**PRIEST:** For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**FAITHFUL:** Amen.

**READER:** Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

✦ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST**

- ✦ O come, let us worship God our King.
- ✦ O come, let us worship and bow down before Christ our King and our God.
- ✦ O come, let us worship and bow down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

### **PSALM 4**

<sup>2</sup>. You heard me when I called, O God of my righteousness. You strengthened my heart when I was in distress; have mercy on me, and hear my prayer. <sup>3</sup>. How long, O you sons of men, will you be slow of heart? Why do you love vain things and seek after lies?

<sup>4</sup>. Know that the Lord made His Holy One wondrous;

The Lord will hear me when I cry to Him.

<sup>5</sup>. Be angry, and do not sin; have remorse upon your beds for what you say in your hearts. <sup>6</sup>. Offer the sacrifice of righteousness, and hope in the Lord.

<sup>7</sup>. There are many who say, “Who will show us good things?” O Lord, the light of Your face was stamped upon us.

<sup>8</sup>. You put gladness in my heart; From their season of wheat, wine, and oil they were multiplied.

<sup>9</sup>. I will both sleep and rest in peace, for You alone, O Lord, cause me to dwell in hope.

## PSALM 6

<sup>2</sup>. O Lord, do not reprove me in Your anger, nor discipline me in Your wrath.

<sup>3</sup>. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled; <sup>4</sup>. And my soul is greatly troubled; but You, O Lord, how long?

<sup>5</sup>. Return, O Lord, and deliver my soul. Save me because of Your mercy.

<sup>6</sup>. For there is no remembrance of You in death; And in Hades who will give thanks to You?

<sup>7</sup>. I am weary with my groaning; every single night I will dampen my bed; I will drench my couch with my tears. <sup>8</sup>. My eye is troubled by anger; I grow old among all my enemies.

<sup>9</sup>. Depart from me, all you workers of lawlessness; for the Lord heard the voice of my weeping;

<sup>10</sup>. The Lord heard my supplication; the Lord received my prayer.

<sup>11</sup>. Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; let them turn back and be suddenly ashamed.

## PSALM 12

2. How long, O Lord? Will You forget me to the end?  
How long will You turn Your face from me?

3. How long will I take counsel in my soul, having  
grief in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be  
exalted over me?

4. Look upon me and hear me, O Lord my God;  
Enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death,

5. Lest my enemy say, "I prevailed against him";  
Those who afflict me greatly rejoice, if I am shaken.

6. But I hope in Your mercy; my heart shall greatly  
rejoice in Your salvation; I will sing to the Lord, who  
shows kindness to me; I will sing to the name of the  
Lord Most High.

✦ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of  
ages. Amen.

✦ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

✦ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of  
ages. Amen.

## PSALM 24

1. To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul, O my God.

2. I trust in You; let me not be ashamed;

Let not my enemies laugh at me.

3. For all who wait upon You shall not be ashamed;  
Let those be ashamed who act lawlessly in vain.

<sup>4</sup>. Make known Your ways to me, O Lord, And teach me Your paths. <sup>5</sup>. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation, and on You I wait all the day.

<sup>6</sup>. Remember Your compassion, O Lord, And Your mercy, for they are from of old.

<sup>7</sup>. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor of my ignorance; but remember me according to Your mercy, because of Your loving-kindness, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup>. Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He will instruct sinners in His way.

<sup>9</sup>. He will guide the gentle in judgment; He will teach the gentle His ways.

<sup>10</sup>. All the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth for those who seek His covenant and His testimonies.

<sup>11</sup>. For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my sin, for it is great. <sup>12</sup>. Who is the man who fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way He chooses.

<sup>13</sup>. His soul shall dwell among good things; His seed shall inherit the earth.

<sup>14</sup>. The Lord is the strength of those who fear Him, And to those who fear Him, His name is the Lord, and He will show them His covenant.

<sup>15</sup>. My eyes are always toward the Lord, For He shall pluck my feet out of the trap.

<sup>16</sup>. Look upon me and have mercy on me, For I am only-begotten and poor. <sup>17</sup>. The afflictions of my heart have been widened; bring me out of my distresses.

<sup>18</sup>. Look on my humiliation and my pain and forgive all my sins. <sup>19</sup>. Look on my enemies, because they multiply, and they hate me with unjustified hatred.

<sup>20</sup>. Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, because I hope in You.

21. The innocent and the upright cleave to me because I wait upon You, O Lord.

22. Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all his afflictions.

### PSALM 30

2. In You, O Lord, I hope; may I not be ashamed forever; in Your righteousness deliver and rescue me.

3. Incline Your ear to me; rescue me speedily; be to me a God who protects me, and a house of refuge to save me.

4. For You are my strength and my refuge, and for Your name's sake You will guide and sustain me;

5. For You will bring me out from the snare they hid for me; for You are my protector.

6. Into Your hands I shall entrust my spirit; You redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

7. You hate those who maintain their empty vanities, but I hope in the Lord.

8. I will greatly rejoice and be glad because of Your mercy, for You beheld my humiliation; You saved my soul from distress,

9. And did not shut me up into the hands of the enemy; You set my feet in a wide place.

10. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am afflicted; My eye is troubled with anger; so are my soul and my stomach.

11. For my life is wasted with grief and my years with sighing; My strength is weakened with poverty, and my bones are troubled.

12. I became a reproach among all my enemies, and especially to all my neighbors, and a fear to all my acquaintances; those who saw me outside fled from me.



<sup>13</sup>. I am forgotten like one whose heart is lifeless; I was made like a vessel that is utterly broken.

<sup>14</sup>. For I heard the blame of many who dwell round about when they were gathered together against me, when they plotted to take my life. <sup>15</sup>. But as for me, I hope in You, O Lord; I said, "You are my God."

<sup>16</sup>. My times are in Your hands; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. <sup>17</sup>. Make Your face shine upon Your servant; save me in Your mercy.

<sup>18</sup>. O Lord, do not let me be ashamed, because I call upon You; let the ungodly be ashamed, and lead them down into Hades.

<sup>19</sup>. Let deceitful lips become speechless when they speak lawlessness against the righteous with arrogance and contempt.

<sup>20</sup>. How great, O Lord, is the abundance of Your goodness You hide for those who fear You, which You will work for those who hope in You in the sight of the sons of men.

<sup>21</sup>. You shall hide them in the secret of Your presence from the disturbance of men; You will shelter them in Your tabernacle from the contradiction of tongues.

<sup>22</sup>. Blessed is the Lord, for He magnified His mercy in a fortified city.

<sup>23</sup>. But I said in my ecstasy, "Indeed, I am cast away from the countenance of Your eyes." Therefore You heard the voice of my supplication when I cried to You. <sup>24</sup>. Love the Lord, all you His saints, for the Lord seeks out truth, and He repays those who act with great arrogance.

<sup>25</sup>. Be courageous, and let your heart be strengthened, All who hope in the Lord.

## PSALM 90

<sup>1</sup> He who dwells in the help of the Most High shall lodge in the shelter of the God of heaven.

<sup>2</sup> He shall say to the Lord, “You are my protector and my refuge, my God; I will hope in Him;

<sup>3</sup> For He shall free me from the snare of the hunters, and from every troubling word.”

<sup>4</sup> He shall overshadow you with His shoulders, and under His wings you shall hope; His truth shall encircle you with a shield.

<sup>5</sup> You shall not be frightened by fear at night, Nor from an arrow that flies by day, <sup>6</sup> Nor by a thing moving in darkness, Nor by mishap and a demon of noonday. <sup>7</sup> A thousand shall fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, Yet it shall not come near you;

<sup>8</sup> But you shall observe with your eyes, and you shall see the reward of sinners.

<sup>9</sup> For You, O Lord, are my hope; you made the Most High your refuge. <sup>10</sup> Evils shall not come to you, and a scourge shall not draw near your dwelling;

<sup>11</sup> For He shall command His angels concerning you, To keep you in all your ways;

<sup>12</sup> In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you strike your foot against a stone;

<sup>13</sup> You shall tread upon the asp and the basilisk, And you shall trample the lion and the dragon.

<sup>14</sup> “For he hoped in Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him, because he knew My name.

<sup>15</sup> He shall call upon Me, and I will hear him; I am with him in affliction, And I will deliver and glorify him.

<sup>16</sup> With length of days I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”

✦ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

✦ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God. (*thrice*)

## THE PROPHECY CONCERNING JESUS THE CHRIST FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH (CHAPTERS 8, 9)

**PRIEST:** God is with us, understand, O you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us.

**FAITHFUL:** God is with us, understand, O you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us.

**PRIEST:** God is with us, understand, O you nations...

**FAITHFUL:** And submit yourselves, for God is with us.

The priest then reads each verse in a plain tone, and we sing the refrain.

1. **PRIEST:** To the ends of the earth, give ear.

**REFRAIN:** For God is with us.

2. **PRIEST:** Submit yourselves, O you mighty ones.

(*refrain*)

3. **PRIEST:** If again you become strong, you shall again be vanquished. (*refrain*)

4. **PRIEST:** And whatever you plan, the Lord will scatter it. (*refrain*)

5. **PRIEST:** And whatever word you speak, it will not remain among you. (*refrain*)

6. **PRIEST:** Fear of you we shall not fear, nor shall we be troubled. (*refrain*)

7. **PRIEST:** The Lord our God, let us sanctify Him, and He will be our fear. (*refrain*)

8. **PRIEST:** And if I should trust in Him, He will be sanctification for me. (*refrain*)

9. **PRIEST:** And I will trust in Him, and I will be saved through Him. (*refrain*)

10. **PRIEST:** Here am I and the children whom God has given me. *(refrain)*

11. **PRIEST:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. *(refrain)*

12. **PRIEST:** We who dwell in the land and the shadow of death, a light will shine on us. *(refrain)*

13. **PRIEST:** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. *(refrain)*

14. **PRIEST:** Whose government was upon His shoulder. *(refrain)*

15. **PRIEST:** And of His peace there is no bound. *(refrain)*

16. **PRIEST:** And His name shall be called, Angel of great counsel. *(refrain)*

17. **PRIEST:** Wonderful Counsellor. *(refrain)*

18. **PRIEST:** Mighty God, Ruler, Prince of peace. *(refrain)*

19. **PRIEST:** Father of the age to come. *(refrain)*

20. **PRIEST:** ✝ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. *(refrain)*

21. **PRIEST:** ✝ Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen. *(refrain)*

**PRIEST:** God is with us, understand, O you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us.

**FAITHFUL:** God is with us, understand, O you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us.

**PRIEST:** God is with us, understand, O you nations...

**FAITHFUL:** ...And submit yourselves, for God is with us.

## **TROPARIA**

**READER:** As I come to the end of the day, I thank you, Lord, and I ask that the evening and the night may be without sin. Grant me this, O Saviour, and save me.

✦ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As I reach the end of the day, I glorify you, Master, and I ask that the evening and the night may be without stumbling. Grant me this, O Saviour, and save me.

✦ Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

As I pass to the end of the day, I praise you, Holy One, and I ask that the evening and the night may be without assault. Grant me this, O Saviour, and save me.

### HYMN TO THE ANGELS AND SAINTS

**READER:** The bodiless nature, the Cherubim, glorifies you with never silent hymns. The six-winged living creatures, the Seraphim, exalt You with unceasing voices. The whole army of the Angels, praises You with thrice-holy songs. For before all You are the Father, the One Who Is, and You have Your Son likewise without beginning. And as You bear the Spirit of life, equal in honour, You show that the Trinity is undivided.

All-holy Virgin, Mother of God, eye-witnesses and servants of the Word, all choirs of Prophets and Martyrs, as you have immortal life, intercede fervently for us all, for we are all in troubles. That delivered from the error of evil, we may cry aloud the Angels' song: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Thrice-holy Lord, have mercy and save us." Amen.

All:

## SYMBOL OF FAITH

**FAITHFUL:** ✠ I believe in one God, the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

✠ And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, being of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from the heavens and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man; Who was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate and suffered and was buried; And He rose on the third day according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; and His kingdom will have no end.

✠ And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the Prophets.

✠ In One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I await the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen.



## VERSES OF SUPPLICATION.

1. **PRIEST:** All-holy Lady, Mother of God, intercede for us sinners. (*twice*)

**FAITHFUL:** All-holy Lady, Mother of God, intercede for us sinners.

2. **PRIEST:** All you heavenly Powers of Angels and Archangels, intercede for us sinners.

**FAITHFUL:** All you heavenly Powers of Angels and Archangels, intercede for us sinners.

3. **PRIEST:** Holy John, Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of our Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for us sinners.

**FAITHFUL:** Holy John, Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of our Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for us sinners.

4. **PRIEST:** Holy, glorious Apostles, Prophets and Martyrs, and All you Saints, intercede for us sinners.

**FAITHFUL:** Holy, glorious Apostles, Prophets and Martyrs, and All you Saints, intercede for us sinners.

5. **PRIEST:** Our Venerable, God-bearing Fathers, Shepherds and Teachers of the whole world, intercede for us sinners.

**FAITHFUL:** Our Venerable, God-bearing Fathers, Shepherds and Teachers of the whole world, intercede for us sinners.

6. **PRIEST:** Our Venerable Fathers Anthony and Theodosius and all the Wonderworkers of the Kyiv Caves Monastery, intercede for us sinners.

**FAITHFUL:** Our Venerable Fathers Anthony and Theodosius and all the Wonderworkers of the Kyiv Caves Monastery, intercede for us sinners.

Here, the intercession of the Saint of the temple is sought.

[ In a temple dedicated to Holy Great-prince Volodymyr: ]

7. **PRIEST:** Holy Great-prince and Equal-to-the-Apostles Volodymyr, intercede for us sinners.

**FAITHFUL:** Holy Great-prince and Equal-to-the-Apostles Volodymyr, intercede for us sinners.

8. **PRIEST:** Unconquerable, indestructible and divine power of the precious and life-giving Cross, do not abandon us sinners.

**FAITHFUL:** Unconquerable, indestructible and divine power of the precious and life-giving Cross, do not abandon us sinners.

9. **PRIEST:** O God, cleanse us sinners.

**FAITHFUL:** O God, cleanse us sinners.

10. **PRIEST:** O God, cleanse us sinners, and have mercy on us.

**FAITHFUL:** O God, cleanse us sinners, and have mercy on us.



**READER:** ✙ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

✙ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

✙ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.



**PRIEST:** For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**READER:** Amen.

### TROPARION OF THE FEAST

#### NATIVITY, TONE 4:

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone the Light of Knowledge upon the world. For by it those who worshiped the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You.

#### THEOPHANY, TONE 1:

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness unto You and called You the Beloved Son. And The Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God Who appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You.

**READER:** Lord, have mercy. (40 times)

✙ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption You gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

("...Master, bless." — in a Cathedral church or when a Bishop is present.)

**PRIEST:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

**READER:** Amen.

### **PRAYER OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT.**

**PRIEST:** Lord, Lord, who deliver us from the arrow that flies by day, deliver us also from every deed that walks in darkness. Accept the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. Grant that we may also pass through the stadium of night without blame, untried by evils, and deliver us from every trouble and from the fear that comes to us from the devil. Grant our souls compunction, our thoughts care concerning the examination in your dread and just judgement. Nail down our flesh from fear of you, and deaden our members upon earth, that in the calm of sleep, we may be made bright in the contemplation of your judgements. Take from us every unseemly imagination and harmful desire. Raise us up at the hour of prayer, strengthened in the faith and advancing in your commandments; through the good-pleasure and goodness of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and to the ages of ages.

**READER:** Amen.



- + O come, let us worship God our King.
- + O come, let us worship and bow down before Christ our King and our God.
- + O come, let us worship and bow down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

## PSALM 50

<sup>1</sup>. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgression.

<sup>2</sup>. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>. For I acknowledge my iniquity, and my sin is continually before me.

<sup>4</sup>. Against You only have I sinned and done this evil before You, that You might be justified in Your words, and prevail when You are judged.

<sup>5</sup>. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

<sup>6</sup>. For behold, You loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made clear to me.

<sup>7</sup>. You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; You will wash me and I will be made whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup>. You will make me hear joy and gladness; the bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>. Turn Your face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup>. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and with Your governing spirit establish me.

<sup>13</sup>. I will teach transgressors Your ways and the ungodly will turn back to You. <sup>14</sup>. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, God of my salvation; and my tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup>. O Lord, You will open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

<sup>16</sup>. For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole burnt offerings You will not be pleased.

<sup>17</sup>. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled, God will not despise.

<sup>18</sup>. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

<sup>19</sup>. Then will You be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then they will offer bullocks upon Your altar.

## **PSALM 101**

<sup>2</sup>. Hear my prayer, O Lord — and let my cry come to You. <sup>3</sup>. Do not turn Your face from me; in the day when I am afflicted. Incline Your ear to me; in the day when I call upon You, hear me quickly.

<sup>4</sup>. For my days vanished like smoke, and my bones burned up like firewood. <sup>5</sup>. I was cut down like grass, and my heart became withered, for I forgot to eat my bread. <sup>6</sup>. Because of the sound of my groaning, my bones cleaved to my flesh. <sup>7</sup>. I have become like a pelican in a desert; I have become like an owl in a ruined house; <sup>8</sup>. I kept watch, and have become like a sparrow alone on a housetop. <sup>9</sup>. My enemies reproached me all day long, and those who praised me swore against me. <sup>10</sup>. For I ate ashes like bread, and mixed my drink with weeping <sup>11</sup>. because of the wrath of Your countenance and Your anger; For You lifted me up and broke me down. <sup>12</sup>. My days were far spent like a shadow, and I am withered like grass. <sup>13</sup>. But You, O Lord, remain forever, and Your remembrance is from generation to generation. <sup>14</sup>. When You rise up, You shall have compassion on Zion, for it is time to have compassion on her, because the time is come; <sup>15</sup>. For Your servants took pleasure in her stones, and they shall have compassion for her dust.

<sup>16.</sup> And the Gentiles shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Your glory; <sup>17.</sup> For the Lord shall build Zion, and He shall be seen in His glory. <sup>18.</sup> He regarded the prayer of the humble, and He did not despise their supplication. <sup>19.</sup> Let this be written for another generation, and the people who are created shall praise the Lord; <sup>20.</sup> For He looked down from the height of His holy place; the Lord looked upon the earth from heaven, <sup>21.</sup> to hear the groaning of those bound, to set free the sons of the slain, <sup>22.</sup> to declare the Lord's name in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem, <sup>23.</sup> when the peoples and the kingdoms are gathered together to serve the Lord.

<sup>24.</sup> He replied to Him in the way of strength, "Declare to me the fewness of my days; <sup>25.</sup> Take me not away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations.

<sup>26.</sup> In the beginning, O Lord, You founded the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands.

<sup>27.</sup> They shall perish, but You shall remain, and all things shall grow old like a garment, and like a cloak You shall change them, and they shall be changed;

<sup>28.</sup> But You are the same, and Your years shall not fail. <sup>29.</sup> The children of Your servants shall dwell there, and their seed shall be led to prosperity forever."

## **PRAYER OF MANASSES, KING OF JUDEA**

<sup>1.</sup> Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and of their just seed;

<sup>2.</sup> Who made the heaven and the earth with all their array; <sup>3.</sup> Who shackled the sea by the word of Your command; Who shut up the deep and sealed it with Your dread and glorious name;

4. Before Whom all things shudder and tremble in the presence of Your power; 5. for the majesty of Your glory cannot be borne, and the wrath of threat to sinners is irresistible, 6. and the mercy of Your promise is measureless and unsearchable. 7. For You are the Lord Most-High, compassionate, long-suffering and full of mercy, and You repent over the evils of mankind. 8. You, Lord, according to the multitude of Your goodness, have appointed repentance and forgiveness to those who have sinned against You, and in the multitude of Your pities, You have decreed repentance unto salvation for sinners. You therefore, Lord God of Powers, did not appoint repentance for the just, for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who did not sin against You, but You have appointed repentance for me a sinner, 9. because I have sinned above number of the sand of the sea. My iniquities have been multiplied, Lord, my iniquities have been multiplied, and I am not worthy to raise my eyes, and to see the height of heaven, because of the multitude of my unjust deeds.

10. I am bowed down by a heavy iron fetter, so that I cannot lift my head and there is no respite for me; because I have provoked your wrath and done what is evil in your sight, not doing your will nor keeping your commands. 11. And now I bow the knee of my heart, praying for the goodness which is from you: 12. I have sinned, Lord, I have sinned, and I recognise my iniquities; 13. but I ask with supplication: Forgive me, Lord, forgive me, and do not destroy me with my iniquities, do not be wrath for ever, do not lay up evils for me, nor condemn me to the lowest parts of the earth: for you are God, the God of the penitent,

<sup>14.</sup> and in me you will show all your goodness; for you will save me who am unworthy according to your great mercy,

<sup>15.</sup> and I will praise you continually all the days of my life. For all the power of heaven praises you, and yours is the glory to the ages of ages. Amen.



**READER:** ✝ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

✝ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

✝ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**PRIEST:** For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**READER:** Amen.

### KONTAKION OF THE FEAST

#### NATIVITY, TONE 3:

Today, the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds give glory. The magi journey with a star. For unto us is born a young Child, the pre-eternal God.

#### THEOPHANY, TONE 4:

You have appeared today unto the whole world, and Your Light, O Lord, has been signed upon us, who with knowledge chant unto You: You have come and are made manifest, O unapproachable Light.

**READER:** Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

+ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption You gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

*(“...Master, bless.” — in a Cathedral church or when a Bishop is present.)*

**PRIEST:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

**READER:** Amen.



## A PRAYER OF SAINT MARDARIUS

**PRIEST:** God and Master, Father almighty, Lord, only begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit, one godhead, one power, have mercy on me a sinner; and by the judgements which you know, save me your unworthy servant; for you are blessed to the ages of ages.

**READER:** Amen.



- + O come, let us worship God our King.
- + O come, let us worship and bow down before Christ our King and our God.
- + O come, let us worship and bow down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

## PSALM 69

1. O God, come to my help; Lord, hasten to help me.
2. Let those who seek my soul be shamed and confounded. Let those who wish me evil be turned back and put to shame.
3. Let those who say to me, "Good, good!" be turned back immediately, ashamed.
4. Let all who seek you, O God, be glad and rejoice in you. Let all who love your salvation ever say: "The Lord be magnified."
5. But I am poor and needy; help me, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; Lord, do not delay.

## PSALM 142

1. O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear to my supplication in Your truth. Harken unto me in Your righteousness.
2. And enter not into judgement with Your servant; for before You no one living will be justified.

3. The enemy pursued my soul. He lowered my life to the ground. He set me in darkness like those long dead. 4. My spirit became despondent within me; my heart was troubled within me.

5. I remembered the days of old. I meditated on all your deeds; I pondered the works of your hands.

6. I have spread out my arms to You; my soul thirsts for You like parched land.

7. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit has become faint. Turn not your face away from me, lest I become like those who go down into the pit.

8. Let me hear of Your mercy in the morning, for I have hoped in You. Show me, Lord, the way in which I should walk, for I have lifted up my soul to You.

9. Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord, to You have I fled for refuge.

10. Teach me to do Your Will, for You are my God. Your good Spirit will guide me on level ground.

11. You will quicken me, O Lord, for Your Name's sake. In Your righteousness You will bring my soul out of affliction.

12. And in Your mercy You will exterminate my enemies. And You will destroy all those who afflict my soul, for I am Your servant.

### LESSER DOXOLOGY

✦ Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God, the Father, Ruler-over-all; Lord, Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and Holy Spirit; Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You who take away

the sin of the world, have mercy on us, accept our supplication, You who sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are Holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every night I will bless You, and Your Name will I praise unto ages and for ever and ever.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: "Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light. Continue Your mercy for those who know You. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name for ever. Amen.

Let Your mercy O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on You.

- + Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.
- + Blessed are You, O Master, give me understanding of Your statutes.
- + Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me by Your statutes.

O Lord, Your mercy endures forever; disdain not the work of Your hands. To You is due praise, to You is due a song, to You glory is due, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

### STICHERA OF THE LITIA

<b>NATIVITY:</b> p. 37		<b>THEOPHANY:</b> p. 41
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## LITANY OF THE LITIA

**DEACON:** Save Your People, O God, and bless Your inheritance. Look upon Your world with mercy and compassion. Strengthen the power of Orthodox Christians and send down upon us Your abundant mercies: Through the prayers of our All-Pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; through the Power of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; through the intercessions of the Honourable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; of the Honourable, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the Holy, Glorious and All-praised Apostles; of our Holy Fathers-among-the-Saints, the Great Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our Holy Father-among-the-Saints, Nicholas the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycea; of the Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles, Methodius and Cyril, Teachers of the Slavs; of the Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles, Great-Prince Volodymyr and Great-Princess, Ol'ha; of our Holy Fathers, the Metropolitans of Kyiv: Michael, Ilarion, Peter, Alexiy, Macarius and Peter; Theodosius of Chernihiv, Demetrius of Rostov, Innocent of Irkutsk, Ioasaph of Bilhorod; Ioan and Paul of Tobolsk; of the Holy Glorious and Victorious Martyrs: the Holy, Glorious Great-Martyr George the Trophy-bearer, the Holy Great-Martyr Barbara, the Holy Great-Martyr John the New of Suchava; the Holy True-Believing Prince-Martyrs and Passion-Bearers, Boris, Hlib and Ihor; the Holy Venerable Martyr Athanasius, Ihumen of Brest; Mykola, Prince of Lutsk; Macarius of Kaniv and Theodore Prince of Ostrih, the Holy Princess Juliana of Olshansk; the Holy Martyrs of Vilnius: Anthony, John and Eustathius; of our

Venerable Fathers Anthony and Theodosius and all the Wonderworkers of the Kyivan Caves; Venerable Job, Ihumen and Wonderworker of Pochaiv; Venerable Paisius Velychkovsky and all the saints glorified in the Ukrainian land; of *(Saint after whom the church is named and of the day)*; of the Holy and Righteous Ancestors-of-God, Joachim and Anna and of all the saints: We beseech You, O Greatly-Merciful Lord, hear us sinners who pray unto You, and have mercy on us.

**FAITHFUL:** Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for our Metropolitan, His Eminence **[name]**; for our Bishop, *(title and name of eparchial bishop)*, for the honourable presbyterate, the deaconate in Christ and all our brethren in Christ; for the souls of every afflicted and weary Christian in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this city and all who dwell herein; for the peace and welfare of the whole world; for the stability of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and assistance of our fathers and brethren who with diligence and in fear of God labour and serve; for the forsaken, for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, for the repose, comfort, blessed memory and forgiveness of sins of all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox faithful here and everywhere laid to rest, for the deliverance of captives, for our brethren who are serving, and for those who serve and have served in this holy temple, let us say:

**FAITHFUL:** Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for our God-loving and God-protected country of Canada, its government, armed forces, and for all our pious people; that the Lord God help and aid them in all things and protect them from every enemy and adversary, let us say:

**FAITHFUL:** Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for the protection of this city *(this holy monastery)* and every city and country from famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, and civil war. May our Good God Who loves mankind be gracious, and merciful to us, and turn away and dispel all wrath stirred up against us and may He deliver us from His righteous chastisement and have mercy on us.

**FAITHFUL:** Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

**DEACON:** Again, we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of the prayer of us sinners and have mercy on us.

**FAITHFUL:** Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

**PRIEST:** Hear us, O God our Saviour, Hope of all the ends of the earth and those far off at sea. Be gracious to us sinners, O Master; be gracious to us and have mercy on us. For You are a Merciful God and the Lover-of-Mankind and unto You do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

**FAITHFUL:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all.

**FAITHFUL:** And to your spirit.

**DEACON:** Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

**FAITHFUL:** To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** O Great and Merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the prayers of our All-Pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; Through the Power of the Precious and Life-giving Cross;

Through the intercessions of the Honourable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; of the Honourable, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the Holy, Glorious and All-praised Apostles; of the Holy, Glorious and Victorious Martyrs: of our Venerable and God-Bearing Fathers, of *(Saint of the temple and of the day)*; of the Holy and Righteous Ancestors-of-God, Joachim and Anna and of all the saints: make our prayer acceptable; grant us forgiveness of our sins; protect us under the shelter of Your wings; drive away from us every enemy and adversary; give peace to our lives, O Lord, have mercy on us and on Your world and save our souls, for You are Good and the Lover-of-Mankind.

**FAITHFUL:** Amen.

## THE APOSTICHA

<b>NATIVITY:</b> p. 39	✙	<b>THEOPHANY:</b> p. 43
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### SONG OF ST. SIMEON: (LUKE 2:29-32)

Now let Your servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Your word. For mine eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light of revelation for the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.



**FAITHFUL:** ✙ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(thrice)*

✙ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

✦ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**PRIEST:** For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**FAITHFUL:** Amen.

### TROPARION OF THE FEAST

After "Amen.", we sing the Troparion of the Feast thrice.

#### NATIVITY, TONE 4:

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone the Light of Knowledge upon the world. For by it those who worshiped the stars were taught by a star to worship You,

#### THEOPHANY, TONE 1:

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness unto You and called You



the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You. *(thrice)*

the Beloved Son. And The Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God Who appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You. *(thrice)*

## BLESSING OF THE LOAVES, WHEAT, WINE AND OIL

**PRIEST:** O Lord Jesus Christ our God, You blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand: As the same Lord, bless these loaves, this wheat, wine and oil and multiply them in this city *(holy monastery)* and in all your world and sanctify the faithful who partake of them. For it is You Who blesses and sanctifies all things, O Christ our God, and we send up glory unto You, together with Your Eternal Father and Your All-Holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

**FAITHFUL:** Amen.

✠ Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. *(thrice)*

## PSALM 33

**READER:** <sup>2.</sup> I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

<sup>3.</sup> In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad.

<sup>4.</sup> O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

<sup>5</sup>. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations.

<sup>6</sup>. Come unto Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. <sup>7</sup>. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. <sup>8</sup>. The Angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them.

<sup>9</sup>. O taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man that hopes in Him.

<sup>10</sup>. O fear the Lord, all you His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him. <sup>11</sup>. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing.

As the psalm is being chanted, the priest stands before the Royal Doors.  
After the psalm he blesses the people:

**PRIEST:** May the blessing of the Lord be upon you, through His grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

**FAITHFUL:** Amen.

Here there may be a reading or homily.

**DEACON:** Wisdom.

**FAITHFUL:** Give the blessing.

**PRIEST:** Blessed is the One-Who-is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

**FAITHFUL:** Amen. Make firm, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto the ages of ages.

**PRIEST:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

**FAITHFUL:** More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption You gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify You.

**PRIEST:** Glory to You, O Christ our God, our Hope, glory to You.

**FAITHFUL:** ✝ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord have mercy. (*thrice*)

Give the blessing.

(“Master, bless”, in a cathedral church or when a bishop is present.)

**PRIEST:** May Christ our true God — [ ...who was born in a cave in Bethlehem of Judea, and lay in a manger for our salvation... • OR • ...who for our salvation deigned to be baptized by John in the Jordan... ] ...through the intercessions of His most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, He is Good and the Lover-of-Mankind.

**FAITHFUL:** Amen.





# THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

## STICHERA OF THE LITIA, TONE 1

1. Let heaven and earth today make glad prophetically. // Angels and men, let us keep spiritual feast. // For God, born of a woman, has appeared in the flesh // to those that sit in darkness and shadow. // A cave and a manger have received Him. // Shepherds announce the wonder; // Magi from the east offer gifts in Bethlehem. // Let us, then, from our unworthy lips offer praise like the angels: // Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. // For the Expectation of the nations has come, // He has come and saved us from the bondage of the enemy.

2. Heaven and earth are united today, // for Christ is born. // Today has God come upon earth, // and man gone up to heaven. // Today for man's sake is seen in the flesh He who by nature is invisible. // Therefore let us also give glory and cry aloud to Him: // Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, // which Your coming has bestowed upon us, // O Saviour: glory to You.

3. Glory to God in the highest, // I hear in Bethlehem today, sung by the Bodiless Powers, // to the One who has been well-pleased for there to be peace on earth. // Now the Virgin is wider than the heavens; // for light has dawned for those in darkness, // and has exalted the lowly, who like the Angels sing, // Glory to God in the highest!

4. When he saw that the one in His image and likeness // had fallen away through transgression, // Jesus bowed the heavens and came down, // and made His dwelling in a virgin womb without change, // that in it He might refashion corrupted Adam // as he cried: Glory to Your epiphany, // my Redeemer and my God!

✦ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

### **TONE 5**

5. Magi, Persian Kings, having clearly learnt that the heavenly King had been born on earth, // drawn by a bright star arrived in Bethlehem, bringing chosen gifts, // gold and incense and myrrh. // And falling down they worshipped, // for they saw lying in the Cave // the Timeless as a babe.

✦ Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

### **TONE 6**

6. All the angels in heaven // are of good cheer and greatly rejoice today. // The whole creation leaps with joy, // for the Saviour and Lord is born in Bethlehem. // Every error of idolatry has ceased, // and Christ reigns unto all ages.



## THE APOSTICHA, TONE 2

7. A great and marvellous wonder has come to pass this day. // A Virgin bears child, and her womb suffers no corruption. // The Word is made flesh, yet ceases not to dwell with the Father. // Angels and shepherds give glory, and with them we cry aloud: // Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.

*Verse:* From the womb before the morning star I have begotten you. The Lord swore and will not repent.

## TONE 3

8. Today the Virgin gives birth to the Maker of all. // Eden offers a cave // and a star reveals Christ, the Sun, to those in darkness. // Enlightened by faith, the Magi worship with gifts, // and Shepherds see the wonder, while Angels sing in praise and say, // ‘Glory to God in the highest!’

*Verse:* The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.

9. When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, // Magi came from the East and worshipped God become man. // Eagerly opening their treasures, they offered precious gifts, // refined gold, as to the King of the ages, // and incense, as to the God of all things; // while as to one dead for three days, myrrh to the Immortal. // Come all you nations, // let us worship the One who was born // to save our souls.

✦ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

#### TONE 4

10. Jerusalem be glad // and all you who love Sion keep festival. // Today the ancient bond of Adam's condemnation has been loosed; // Paradise has been opened for us and the serpent vanquished, // for he now sees that the one he trampled on of old has become the Mother of the Creator. // O the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! // The one who was the cause of death for all flesh, the instrument of sin, // has, through the Mother of God, become the source of salvation for all the world. // For a child, is born from Her, the All-perfect God, // and through his birth he seals her Virginity, // loosing the bonds of sins through swaddling clothes; // and through his becoming a child, he heals the pangs of Eve in childbirth. // Therefore let all creation dance and leap for joy, for Christ has come to call it back // and to save our souls.

✦ Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

11. You made your dwelling in a cave, Christ our God, // a manger received You, // while Shepherds and Magi worshipped You. // Then was the proclamation of the Prophets fulfilled; // and the Angelic Powers marvelled, // as they cried out and said, // Glory to Your condescension, only Lover of humankind!'



## HOLY THEOPHANY



### STICHERA OF THE LITIA, TONE 4

1. He who covers Himself with light as with a garment // has vouchsafed for our sakes to become as we are. // Today He is covered by the streams of the Jordan, // though He has no need to be cleansed by them: // but through the cleansing that He Himself receives // He bestows regeneration on us. // O wonder! // Without fire He casts anew and without shattering He refashions; // and He saves those who are enlightened in Him, // Christ our God, the Saviour of our souls.

2. Seeing You, who cleanses the sin of the world by Spirit and by fire, draw near, // the Baptist cried aloud in fear and trembling, saying: // I dare not touch Your immaculate head. // Do You, O Master, sanctify me by Your Epiphany, // You who alone loves mankind.

3. Come, let us do as the wise virgins; // come let us go and meet the Master who has appeared: // for as a Bridegroom has He come forth to John. // The Jordan, seeing You, crouched in fear and stopped; // John cried aloud: I dare not touch Your immortal head. // The Spirit came down in the form of a dove to hallow the waters, // and a voice cried from on high: // This is My Son who is come into the world to save mankind. // O Lord, glory to You.



4. Christ is baptized: // He comes up out of the waters, and with Him He carries up the world. // He sees the heavens opened that Adam closed against himself and his posterity. // The Spirit bears witness to His divinity, for He hastens towards His like; // and a voice sounds from heaven, // for it is from heaven that He has come down to whom this testimony is given, // and He is the Saviour of our souls.

5. The hand of the Baptist trembled, // when it touched Your immaculate head: // the river Jordan turned back, not daring to minister to You. // For how could he that stood in awe of Joshua the son of Nun // not be afraid before the Maker of Joshua? // But You, our Saviour, have fulfilled all that was appointed, // that so You might save the world by Your Epiphany, // O You who alone love mankind.

+ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

## tone 8

6. O Lord, wishing to fulfil that which You have appointed from eternity, // You have received at this, Your mystery, ministers from all creation // Gabriel from among the angels // the Virgin from among men // the Star from among the heavens // and Jordan from among the waters; // and in its stream You have washed away the transgression of the world. // O Saviour, glory to You.

+ Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

7. Today the creation is enlightened. // Today all nature is glad, things of heaven and things upon earth. // Angels and men mingle with one another, // for where the King is present, there His army also goes. // Let us run, then, to the Jordan; // let us all see how John baptizes a sinless and uncreated head. // Therefore let us cry aloud with one accord, // echoing the voice of the apostle: // The Grace of God that brings salvation to all men has appeared, // shining upon the faithful and granting them great mercy.



### THE APOSTICHA

8. Seeing You, O Christ our God, // draw near to him in the river Jordan, John said: // Why do You, who has no defilement, come to Your servant, O Lord? // In whose name shall I baptize You? // Of the Father? But You bear Him in Yourself. // Of the Son? But You are Yourself this Son made flesh. // Of the Holy Spirit? But You know that through Your own mouth // You give Him to the faithful. // O God who has appeared, have mercy upon us.

*Verse:* The sea saw it and fled: Jordan was driven back.

9. The waters saw You, O God: // the waters saw You and were afraid. // For the Cherubim cannot lift their eyes upon Your glory, // nor can the Seraphim gaze upon You: // but standing by You in fear, // the first carry You and the second glorify Your might. // With them, O merciful Lord, we proclaim Your praises // and we say: O God who has appeared, have mercy upon us.

*Verse:* What ailed you, O you sea, that you fled? And you, O Jordan, that you were driven back?

<sup>10.</sup> Today the Maker of heaven and earth comes in the flesh to the Jordan. // He who is sinless asks for baptism, // that He may cleanse the world from the error of the enemy. // He who is the Master of all is baptized by a servant, // and He gives mankind cleansing through water. // Unto Him let us cry aloud: O God who hast appeared to us, glory to You. //

+ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

### **tone 6**

Seeing the Sun that came from a Virgin // asking for baptism in the Jordan, // the shining Lamp that was born of a barren woman // cried to Him in fear and joy: // Sanctify me, O Master, // by Your divine Epiphany.



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